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Society of Cincinnati.

Memorandum.

I.

In the past few years interest in the Order and desire for information as to its Principles has become so great that the Secretary-General is daily in receipt of communications and inquiries as to whether the writers are eligible under the Rules.

Proper answers often require several hours of patient and exhaustive research which it is not always in the power of the Secretary-General to give.

It is, therefore, suggested that hereafter, members, when applied to, unless able to give the desired information, shall refer applicants to the Secretaries of the State Societies where their applications would have to be acted upon, if presented.

The following are the names of the Secretaries:

Massachusetts— David Greene Haskins, Jr.,
83 Devonshire Street,
Boston, Mass.

Rhode Island— Thomas Arnold Peirce, (Assistant Secretary),
East Greenwich, R. I.

Connecticut— Augustus White Merwin,
Wilton, Fairfield Co., Conn.

New York— William Linn Keese,
Flatbush, Brooklyn, N. Y.

New Jersey— William Chetwood Spencer,
Elizabeth, N. J.

Pennsylvania— Francis Marinus Caldwell,
4814 Chester Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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Maryland— Wilson Cary McHenry,
Pikesville, Baltimore Co., Md.

South Carolina—Daniel Elliott Huger Smith,
Charleston, S. C.

II.

At the Convention of Officers of the American Army in the Cantonments on Hudson river, June 19th, 1783, the Institution, which had previously been agreed upon, was materially amended in several important particulars and it was resolved, as an amendment thereto, that "a diploma, on parchment, whereon shall be impressed the exact figures "of the Order and Medal, be given to each and every member."

In the Meeting of the General Society presided over by His Excellency, President-General Washington, held in Philadelphia, on May 17th, 1784, the language of the diploma was agreed upon.

The design therefor was executed under his direction by Brevet Major Pierre C. L'Enfant, Continental Corps of Engineers, and the plate was engraved in Paris in 1784 by J. J. Le Veau, the great Bank Note Engraver of France.

Assessments were, thereafter, from time to time, usually made by the General Society upon the several State Societies to pay for diplomas and President-General Washington, as long as he lived, signed diplomas for Original, Honorary and Hereditary Members.

As years went by but few Hereditary Members were admitted and, for nearly half a century, the affairs of the Order were administered by the Venerable Revolutionary Members.

It was then a difficult matter, in the absence of express companies or suitable postal facilities, to procure the signatures, from widely divergent localities, of the President-General and Secretary-General and then to transmit a diploma to a newly admitted member.

As a consequence, the custom of issuing State Society Certificates of membership was, in several State Societies, inaugurated, although whoever is admitted in any State Society becomes, *ipso facto*, as declared in the Institution, a member of "*One Society of Friends.*"

In 1890, the original valuable diploma plate, which had become corroded, was restored to usefulness, and, on May 9th, 1890, the General Society of the Cincinnati in Triennial Meeting convened, unanimously adopted the following ordinance:

> "Be it Ordained *by the General Society of the Cincinnati*, That a "Diploma or Certificate of membership in the Society of the "Cincinnati shall be issued to any member of the Society who "may apply therefor, upon filing with the Secretary-General a "certificate signed by the President and Secretary of the State "Society wherein such member may be enrolled, certifying "that such member has been duly and regularly admitted to "membership in that State Society.

"Such Diploma shall be in the form prescribed by the "Ordinance of May 17th, 1784, and duly authenticated by the "President-General and Secretary-General, and shall after the "member's name, recite whom he represents, unless the mem- "ber has been admitted to honorary membership, in which "case, in place of such recital, there shall be endorsed on the "margin of such Diploma the words '*Honorary Member.*'

"Such Diploma shall be furnished by the Secretary-Gen- "eral at a uniform price as near as may be the average cost "of preparation and transmission of the same."

The uniform average price of preparation and transmission of a Diploma has been fixed, by advice of the General Officers, at five dollars, and it is requested, that when application shall be made for a Diploma, the above specified amount be sent by Post Office money order to the Secretary-General, in addition to the required certificate of membership. Due account will be made by the Secretary-General to the Treasurer-General for all sums thus received.

Members are desired, in their respective applications for Diplomas, to give their full names and State whom they represent, with full name, rank and regiment or corps.

It is to be observed that the Ordinance of the General Society under the Institution in no way restricts or interferes with the issuance by any or all of the State Societies of certificates of membership to members enrolled therein.

III.

In September, 1894, a new monthly publication was issued under the title of "The Spirit of '76," which, in the publisher's announcement, claims to "be devoted mainly to the interest of the Society of the Cincinnati" and of certain patriotic associations.

The attention of the Secretary-General having been officially invited to the leading article in that number (No. 1, September, 1894,) upon "The Society of the Cincinnati," in which there are several material errors, it is proper to say that this periodical is not an official publication nor representative of the Cincinnati, but is in the language of its editor, "a commercial enterprise."

IV.

As it is desirable that the General Society, as well as State Society Rosters of members shall be accurately kept, members are, respectfully, requested to notify the Secretary-General of changes of residence and also of any errors in printed Rosters of the General Society as to *full* names or post office directions.

Secretary-General's Office,

October 11, 1894.

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